

STATES-ITEM

## New Trial Date Due for Smith Bribery Case

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—Dist. Judge Fred LeBlanc is scheduled today to set a new trial date for Dalton Smith, a New Orleans contractor charged with public bribery.

The judge yesterday granted the state a continuance after the state said it could not serve two key witnesses, Teamsters leader Edward Grady Partin and former governor's aide Aubrey Young—with subpoenas.

SMITH WAS charged with offering Young \$25,000 to set up a meeting with Partin.

The alleged purpose of the meeting was to get Partin to change his testimony against James R. Hoffa, Teamsters Union president, in his jury tampering conviction in Tennessee.

Partin was a key witness in the trial, turning state's evidence against Hoffa.

After Asst. Dist. Atty. Cyrus Greco said Partin and Young could not be served, Smith's attorney, Ossie B. Brown, objected and filed a counter-motion calling for a speedy trial.

JUDGE LEBLANC said the district attorney's office had demonstrated "due diligence" in its effort to serve the subpoenas.

Brown had charged that the district attorney's office was lax in its efforts to subpoena Young and Partin.

He said the trial date was set in December, but the state failed to issue subpoenas until Monday.

LeBlanc said service of witnesses was the job of the sheriff's office, but he admitted that issuing the subpoenas on Monday was "cutting it a bit thin."

IT WAS the third time that the trial had been delayed.

LeBlanc noted that the defense had not objected to earlier delays and also that the prosecution had not filed a formal motion for continuance before.

Greco promised a "Herculean" effort to serve the witnesses next time.